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## BOOK REVIEWS

### RECENT GERMAN TEXT-BOOKS.

*Newson's Modern Language Series.* Three well-printed little volumes : *Newson's First German Book*, *Newson's German Reader*, and *German Daily Life* (with introduction by W. H. Buell).

The first book is based on the well-known Hölzel pictures, "The Four Seasons," widely used in Germany. If an American teacher would learn to use the conversational method, this book, in connection with the reader, will be of great assistance. The reader contains an adequate treatment of inductive grammar, a subject neglected in the first book. The selection for each lesson is a literary unit prepared for the needs of the pupil, many of them dealing with affairs of his own life. The prose consists of short paragraphs, which are well constructed. The poems are well selected, but should be supplemented by a collection of songs like *Damm's Liederbuch*. The questions in each lesson are helpful for digesting the contents and for conversational exercises. The grammar element in the reader trains judgment and independent thinking. The *Aufgaben* ask for free reproduction of the matter read, the most excellent way of acquiring ease and an actual *Sprachgefühl*. The vocabulary, with explanations in full sentences and reference back to the place where word was first used, is another welcome addition.

*The German Daily Life* or its equivalent should be in the hands of every teacher. It contains that which an educated German in his conversation on general topics is likely to use. It is good German, simple in style. Especial attention is called to the conversational phrases and slang. No one can thoroughly appreciate modern Germany or its literature without knowing the contents of this book.

*A German Reader.* With Notes and Vocabulary. By Howard P. Jones, Ph.D. New York : D. Appleton & Co.

The author states in the introduction that he followed the general arrangement of readers compiled some sixty years ago, which were modeled on books used in the schools of Germany. This is certainly true. The selections are the best one could wish to have young people read (with one exception, "Germelshausen"), and the German boy in Germany ought to enjoy the book thoroughly. However, the American beginner, especially in the secondary school, would probably prefer reading-matter with less new vocabulary. The volume contains five thousand and more new words, and the author sees fit to give from thirty to forty footnotes for selections, ten lines and less in length. The vocabulary and notes are faulty in accent and marking of vowels (*cf.* Wald'esdunkel, an'statt, allerlei, Asch'enbrödel, Gertrüd' Gebrech'en, nämlich, A'raber längs), at the rate of two mistakes on each page.

*A German Reader for Beginners.* With an Introduction on English-German Cognates, Notes and Vocabulary. By H. C. O. Huss, Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures in Princeton University. Boston : D. C. Heath & Co., 1900. Pp. 208.

The especial feature of this reader is the attention paid to cognates as a means for acquiring vocabulary. The author says "students will be interested and stimu-